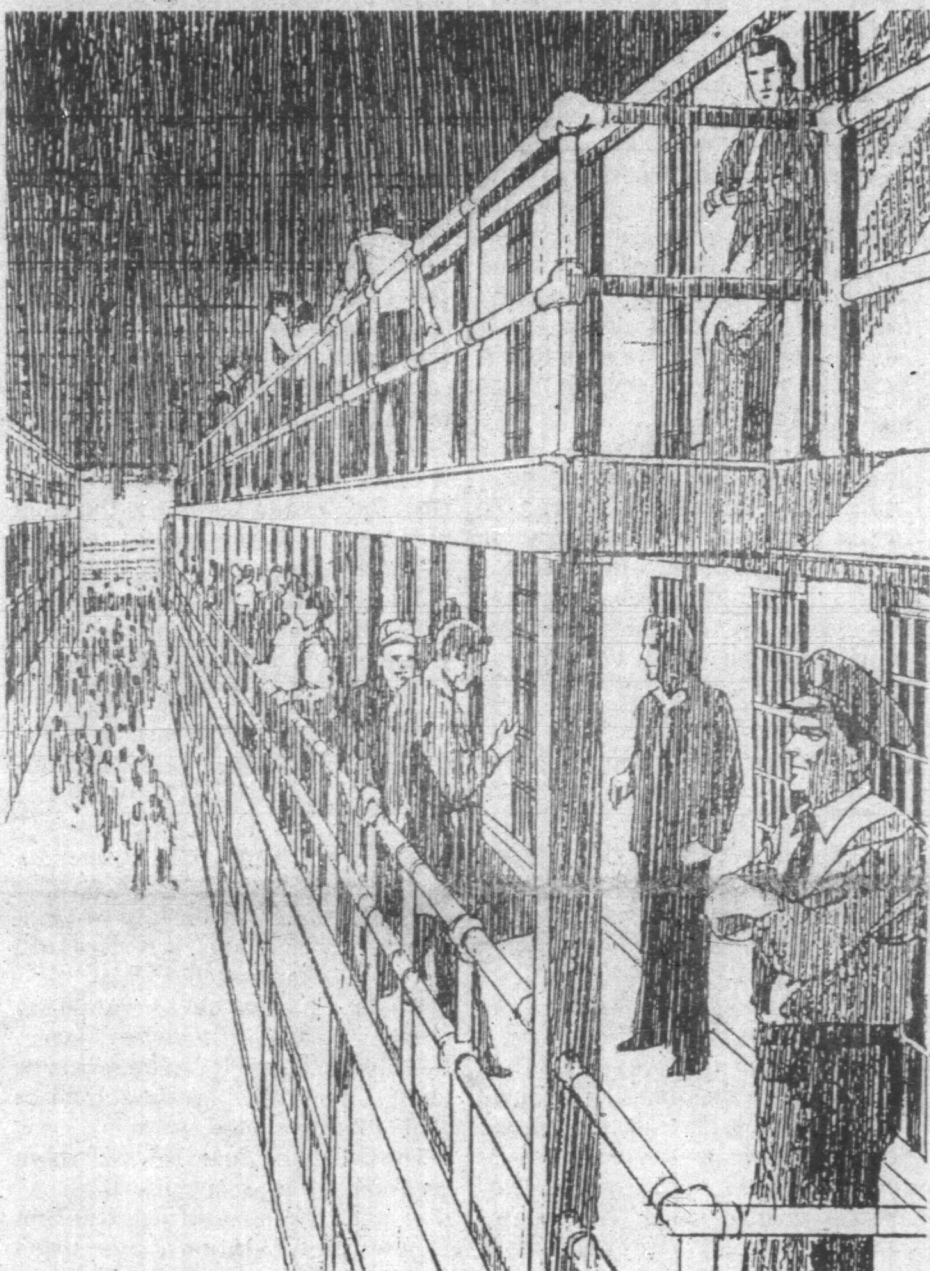


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 22, 1987

Published Since 1877



Ministry sees 1,500 converted as prisoners witness inside

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Sharing the gospel in the cellblocks of America's toughest prison won't be much of a culture shock for a group of evangelistic witnesses trained by Shady Oaks Baptist Church in Hurst, Texas. They all are prisoners themselves.

The 35 inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections Eastham unit, recently rated "America's toughest prison" by Newsweek magazine, all became Christians while behind bars. Many were converted directly as a result of the ministry of Don Dickerman, associate pastor at Shady Oaks Church.

In the near future, Dickerman and a group of volunteers from Shady Oaks will go to the Eastham unit to train the inmates in the Evangelism Explosion witnessing program. The prisoners will then go into cellblocks on a daily basis with the warden's permission to witness to fellow inmates.

"When those of us from the free

world witness to prisoners, it's easy for them to say, 'Sure you love us, and you care, but you've never been here.

You don't know what it's like,'" says Dickerman. "When other inmates witness to them, they have to know that it's real — that it works."

Last year, Dickerman spent about three weekends each month behind bars with volunteer groups, preaching 112 times in prisons. He saw 1,500 prisoners make professions of faith in Christ in evangelistic services and many others converted through personal contact and correspondence.

"One very effective evangelistic tool we use is our newsletter, 'The Solid Rock,' which is read by about 50,000 inmates each week," he says.

"Sometimes when I go into lock-up areas to see prisoners who aren't allowed out of their cells for more than an hour or so a day, I see stacks of them that prisoners have saved and that are read and reread."

Each issue contains an evangelistic

message as well as letters from inmates and other items of interest to prisoners. Most of the budget of Don Dickerman Ministries — a non-profit organization based at Shady Oaks Church — is spent on publishing the newsletter.

Dickerman works as a commercial representative for Texas Electric and serves without salary as associate pastor in charge of prison ministries.

Although he finds his schedule demanding, his excitement for prison ministry has not diminished after 11 years.

"I've known a spiritual renewal in prison that I've never seen in the free world," notes Dickerman. "When prisoners experience the grace of God, they fall in love with Jesus. It's an abiding love because they realize more than most of us how far down God reached to touch them."

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

Testimony converts those at murderer's funeral

By Orville Scott

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (BP) — Richard Andrade became a Christian only two weeks before his execution for murder in Huntsville, Texas.

But the testimony of his conversion resulted in about 60 of his family and friends praying to receive Christ at his funeral in Corpus Christi, Texas, said the seminary student who witnessed to Andrade during the nationwide Prison Invasion Dec. 5.

During the prison revival Andrade overheard Scott Moneyham, a student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, telling another death row inmate how to become a Christian.

"I've got 14 days to live. Do you think there's time for me?" Andrade asked. Moneyham assured him there was time and led the condemned inmate to accept Christ.

As a newborn Christian, Andrade asked, "Would you pray that my family will be saved?" Subsequently Moneyham was invited by a relative

of Andrade to tell of the experience at his funeral.

Moneyham told, not only about Andrade's conversion, but explained the plan of salvation before the congregation and a Catholic priest who was conducting the funeral service. At the close, Moneyham invited the congregation to bow their heads and pray to receive Christ. About half of about 130 people at the service complied.

Afterward an aunt of the executed man told Moneyham, "I prayed that prayer, and I really meant it."

As Moneyham was leaving, another woman caught up with him and asked, "Can you explain to me why I feel so different. I prayed that prayer, and I feel different."

Andrade's sister-in-law, who had invited Moneyham to speak, told him the following morning, "The whole family is different now."

Orville Scott writes for Texas Baptists.

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (BP) — When a West Texas woman's car broke down while driving across the state from Odessa to Huntsville, she thought it was the end of the road for her marriage.

Her husband was serving a prolonged prison sentence in the Ellis II unit near here and she had been left with the responsibility of bringing up their eight-year-old son. After months of lonely labor, the woman felt all of her emotional, financial, and spiritual resources had been depleted.

She had worked for months as a substitute teacher, saving her money. Finally, she set out for East Texas to save a troubled marriage — to renew family ties with a husband she hadn't seen in far too long.

When she started her trip, she knew it would take every penny she had saved. Visiting hours at the prison were short, and it wouldn't be easy making the 450-mile journey. But she believed it was her last chance for a reconciliation.

It looked as if a broken-down car would rob her of that chance. The unexpected expense of getting the aged vehicle running again left her near penniless, and by the time she and

her son crossed the Walker County line, visiting hours for the weekend were over.

Fortunately, the West Texas woman had heard about Hospitality House. Sponsored by the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Texas Baptist Men and, Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association, Hospitality House is a temporary home for the visiting families of inmates in Texas Department of Corrections facilities in the Huntsville area.

At Hospitality House, the woman met director Bob Norris. She told him her story and asked if he could do anything to help. Norris called the chaplain at the Ellis II unit and explained the woman's predicament.

"After I called to try to set up the visit, we prayed together," says Norris. "Before long, the chaplain called back. The prison had agreed to let the family have a four-hour contact visit. They had a long visit together, and the couple made reconciliation."

Making reconciliation and strengthening family ties is part of the ongoing ministry of Hospitality House. "The two greatest rehabilitating forces in the correctional system

are the strong ties of the earthly family and the eternal ties to our heavenly family," says W. J. Isbell, Texas director of Baptist Men. "We need to visit those in prison, taking the gospel to them that they might be brought into a right relationship with God. We also need to help families visit their loved ones in prison in order to keep their family ties strong. The Hospitality House helps us to accomplish both objectives."

The house, the second of its kind in the United States and the first sponsored by Southern Baptists, is capable of accommodating up to 48 overnight visitors in dormitory-style rooms. It includes a common kitchen where guests are able to prepare their own meals.

Each visiting family is asked to pay no more than \$5 per night to help defray the cost of laundering linens and to give them a sense of helping to pay their own way. Since its opening in mid-August, Hospitality House has hosted about 150 families. Seventeen persons have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as a direct result of Hospitality House ministry.

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

Hospitality House

Last reconciliation chance

By Ken Camp

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Baptist Men's Day

Sunday is Baptist Men's Day in Mississippi and across the Southern Baptist Convention, and one wonders how much different conditions and attitudes would be in Southern Baptist ranks if laymen were allowed to exercise more influence.

The current controversy has been labeled as a preacher fight. Laymen generally are confused and discouraged by it.

Nevertheless, it is Baptist Men's Day. That doesn't limit itself to laymen; but in paying tribute to all Baptist men, it must be noted that all but about 40,000 of the 14 million are laymen.

They don't all go to church every Sunday and all are not enthusiastic about the day-by-day work of the church. There are many, however, who feel that they almost have a calling to be faithful and productive in church work.

In speaking about laymen, it is necessary to pause for a moment to pay tribute to Owen Cooper. He was a Mississippi Baptist layman, albeit, not the ordinary layman. He was more of a minister. But it could be that

he had the right idea to a greater extent than any of the rest of us. He was the founder of Mississippi's largest industrial operation, Mississippi Chemical; yet it must be said that he didn't work to make money. He worked to be able to support himself so that he could give himself to the Lord's work without needing remuneration.

There are not too many like him. In fact, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1985, he was named Mississippi Baptist layman of the century.

It would be nice to have other laymen like him, and surely we have. We may have any number of laymen who are just as dedicated and just as able and would serve just as effectively if given the opportunity.

Owen Cooper was fortunate in that he could operate almost independently, and he did to some degree. For the most part, however, he channelled his energies through the areas of work of Southern Baptists. He created missions outposts in several foreign nations. They were the nations, however, where Southern Baptists were not able to place missionaries as an of-

ficial missions sending agency. He also did a great deal of work in agricultural missions efforts, and these measures he channelled through the Foreign Mission Board.

It is to be understood that the average layman is not going to be able to give himself in missions work as did Owen Cooper. He cannot be expected to do so. He can, however, do his best when given the opportunity. And there are many laymen who have latent possibilities which need to be explored and utilized.

To be sure, there are laymen who do not want to do anything. There are also preachers who don't want laymen doing anything.

What we need are laymen who will get to work and can be counted on. There are many of them on the scene. They simply need to be pointed in the right direction, and turned loose.

The turning loose might present a traumatic experience, but by and large the laymen can be counted on. And where their expertise begins to waver, they can be ready to ask
(Continued on page 5)

Guest opinion . . .

The greatest gift

By John Hanbery

If you were resting in your home and suddenly discovered that it was on fire, what would you take with you as you escaped before your home became engulfed in flames. The answer for me is easy. I have already decided: a stool and a small pillow.

In my home there are many things which have some monetary value. The stool and the pillow are important only to my wife and to me.

The small pillow was given to my wife while she was a small baby. It was handmade by her grandmother for a precious baby. There was little money in those days for extravagant presents. This was given in love.

The pillow goes with us everywhere we go. While traveling it is usually found on the front seat of our car. It has a place of honor. We even took it to New Orleans Seminary, but that is another story.

The kitchen stool was bought by my grandmother. My mother sat on it while my grandmother prepared the meals. I sit on it! My children sit on it, and their children will sit on it.

Of all the Christmas presents received by my family this year, one comes to mind. Each child in my wife's first grade class gave her a gift

at Christmas time. One little boy with humility and great happiness gave her his gift. It was hidden in a plain brown box about one-third the size of a shoe box, lacking any bright Christmas wrapping paper. Nestled inside the box lay a crumpled birthday napkin which had been used during a birthday party earlier in the week. Hidden inside the birthday napkin was a small plastic bear about the size of a man's thumb. It showed signs of wear and tear. As he presented his gift the little boy said, "My mother said that we didn't have anything to give to you, but we did."

I am reminded of that night many years ago when God gave us his only son that those who received him might have everlasting life. He, too, was given in love and sacrifice. He came to us in a stable, resting in a manger, void of splendid wrappings and fanfare, just a little thing. But he is Jesus the Christ, the only Son of God, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. He is the greatest gift we shall ever receive.

John Hanbery is instrumentalist specialist for the Church Music Department and band director at Mississippi College.

MADD at alcohol

The Mississippi chapters of Mothers Against Drunk Driving have made public their support of House Bill 222. It is a crime victim's rights act.

Dianne C. Willie, state coordinating chairperson for the Mississippi chapters of MADD, made the support of MADD known by contacting the Baptist Record and, surely, other publications and others interested in such legislation.

As most people are aware, MADD was begun by a mother whose teenage daughter was killed by a drunk driver. There are now chapters nationwide.

In their plea for support, a note was attached to their letter being sent to legislators. The note reads in part, "Rep Dewayne Thomas of Jackson has introduced a bill for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. We need your help. Enclosed is a copy of the cover letter Re: House Bill 222. Please take a moment of your time to write or call your representative or senator to register your support for this bill. If passed, House Bill 222 is one that all Mississippians can be proud of. Please don't delay. This bill is already in the hands of our representatives and senators. We strongly believe the passage of this bill depends on YOU. Please mail your letters to your representatives and senators at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205. Thank you for your support."

In their cover letter, the MADD officials point out that 37 states have such a crime victim's rights act. They

note that alcohol-related crashes are responsible for some 560,000 injuries and more than 26,000 deaths each year. The MADD group declares that the victims should have rights just as the accused have rights as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The MADD folks point out that they are not seeking to reduce the rights of the defendants but do want to insure that the victims also are guaranteed rights.

They present a list of 14 points that they are seeking to have addressed.

As a means of establishing a fund from which to provide any needed help for victims, MADD is suggesting that fines for all driving under the influence of alcohol convictions be increased by \$25 per case and earmarked for that purpose. They are also suggesting that drivers' license fees be increased by \$5 each. They note that matching federal funds are available.

MADD supports eliminating using as a defense in alcohol-related crashes a diminished capacity due to intoxication or drug use. It notes that the victims of such crashes are no less crime victims than are those of homicide, rape, or other types of violent crimes.

A great deal of the information in the 14 points is calling for full disclosure to the victims of the judicial process so that the victims will know the full story of the problem. MADD feels that such disclosure is reasonable because criminal justice is unable to adequately protect the public from criminal activity and thus

it should assume the responsibility to the victims of crime by allowing them to be included in the judicial process.

This is a new wrinkle in Mississippi in the fight against drunk drivers. In the past the Baptist Record has continually campaigned against allowing alcohol to be sold in beverage form as the best way of eliminating drunk driving. In view of the fact that such is a possibility but not an immediate probability, we would support MADD in its efforts to find some way of relief for the victims of the drunk driver.

The bill is in the Judiciary A committee of the House. W. Terrell Stubbs is the chairman. MADD is a powerful group because it was born out of tragic circumstances, but it cannot achieve its goal in this case without the support of the citizens of the state. As has been pointed out in these pages over and over, whatever Baptists want

in Mississippi is what takes place. There are that many of us. When we work in concert, we have the power to shape the state into any form that we want.

If we want to stop drunk driving, we can. If don't care, it will continue.

The plea is to write the senators and representatives on this bill and on all of the other bills involving alcohol and help them to make responsible decisions. They need to hear from us. They are responsible to us. The highest ranking senator or representative in the Legislature is responsible to the grassroots people of the state.

It can work no other way.

There are many bills that demand attention. There are so many that those which do need attention cannot all be discussed. One additional, however, is Emerson Stringer's bill that would provide for teaching creationism in the public school if evolu-

tion is being taught. This comes up every year, and every year it is defeated, but Stringer is to be commended for continuing to seek to have the legislation passed.

We don't have to have creationism taught. We don't have to have evolution taught, either. If evolution is to be taught, however, then creationism should be presented as well.

The courts continue to strike down creationism laws because they say that the teaching of creationism violates the separation of church and state in that it promotes biblical teaching. The fact is that the teaching of evolution violates the separation of church and state as well, for it denies the teaching of the Bible in the minds of many Christians.

Stringer's bill is SB 2440. It has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

Jack Gordon is the chairman.



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Evangelism/ Bible Conference

February 2-4
Calvary Baptist Church
Jackson

Monday evening

6:45 Music Messages	Alta Woods Church, Jackson
Men's Quartet	Dot Pray, Irene Martin, James A. Goff
Keyboard Praise	Ronnie Cottingham, Leader
Congressional Praise	W. C. Rainey
Vocal Witness	Guy Henderson
7:10 Introductions	Barry Landrum
7:20 Bible Study	Guy Henderson
7:50 Evangelism Strategies	
8:05 Music Messages	Myrna Loy Hedgepeth
Vocal Witness	Ronnie Cottingham, Leader
Congregational Singing	Music/Drama Team
Music & Drama Witness	Dan C. Hall, Music Director
	Ann Barlow, Drama Director
8:25 Message	Stuart Brisco
8:55 Adjourn	

Tuesday morning

8:30 Music Messages	Kim Myers, Dot Pray, Edwin Sudduth
Keyboard Praise	Rick Greene, Leader
Congregational Praise	Tommy Randall
Vocal Witness	Barry Landrum
9:00 Bible Study	
9:30 Break	
9:45 Conferences	
10:45 Break	
10:55 Congregational Praise from "Glory Songs"	Rick Greene, Leader
Vocal Witness	Kathryn Barfield
11:10 Testimony — "Amsterdam '86 and World Evangelism"	Jerry Swimmer
11:20 Message	Stuart Brisco
11:55 Adjourn	

Tuesday afternoon

1:40 Music Messages	Flora Baptist Church
Mixed Quartet	Brenda Sullivan, Dot Pray, Edwin Sudduth
Keyboard Meditations	Tom Larrimore, Leader
Congregational Praise	Windy Hatcher, Chaplain
2:00 "Captives for Christ" Team	Sheldon Gooch, Soloist
	Joe Elliot, Testimony
2:30 Break	
2:40 Conferences	
3:40 Break	
3:50 Congregational Praise	Tom Larrimore, Leader
Testimony (Using Ventriloquism)	Molly Fairchild & "Johnny"
4:00 Message	Jim Ponder

Tuesday evening

6:40 Music Messages	First Church, Canton
Men's Quartet	Irene Martin, Dot Pray, Edwin Sudduth
Keyboard Praise	Jerry Swimmer, Leader
Congregational Praise	Clint & Jarvis Rose Nichols
Vocal Witness	Jim Henry
7:15 Bible Study	
7:45 Music Messages	Jerry Swimmer, Leader
Congregational Praise	Sanctuary Choir, Calvary, Jackson
Choral Message	Dee Solomon, Director
8:00 Bold New Growth — Mississippi	
8:20 Music Messages	Jerry Swimmer, Leader
Congregational Singing	Ladies Quartet
Vocal Witness	Flowood Church, Flowood
8:30 Message	Jim Ponder
9:00 Adjourn	

Wednesday morning

8:30 Music Messages	Dot Pray, Kim Myers, Edwin Sudduth
Keyboard Praise	Jim Dalrymple, Leader
Congregational Praise	Verna Lee
Vocal Witness	Jerry Young
8:45 Bible Study	Frank Gunn
9:15 Testimony "Every Christian A Witness"	
9:25 Music Messages	Nell Middleton
Vocal Witness by Music Evangelists	Phillip Willis
	Elaine Pounds
	Darrel King
9:40 Message "Prayer and Revival"	
10:15 Music Messages	Jim Dalrymple, Leader
Congregational Praise	John Yates & "J. J."
Vocal Witness by Music Evangelists	Bill & Denise Riley
10:30 Message	Jim Henry
11:10 Adjourn	

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 22, 1987

Published Since 1877

New Christian Life Commission chief

Larry Baker is elected to moral concerns group

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Baptist educator and ethicist Larry Baker was elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Jan. 15 in a special called meeting of the agency's trustees.

Baker, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was elected by a 16-13 majority in a secret-ballot vote. The election followed 90 minutes of intense questioning from trustees on controversial issues such

as abortion, capital punishment, and women in ministry.

Baker, 49, will begin work March 15 as the fourth executive director of the national moral concerns agency. He succeeds Foy Valentine, who will move into a development position with the CLC effective April 15 after a month's overlap with Baker.

A contractual agreement spelling out Valentine's new responsibilities and compensation was approved by a 17-11 vote after debate. Valentine will be executive officer for development until July 1988, when he reaches age 65.

He announced last April his intention to move out of the executive director's role because of "personal health concerns." After discovering in 1985 significant blockage in three areas of his heart, doctors prescribed regular medication and recommended avoidance of heavy stress.

In the midst of open divisiveness that has marked the last two meetings of the agency's trustees, Baker pledged to be a "team player."

Asked how he "proposed to work with a divided board," Baker said, "My judgment is that you may be

more united than divided. As executive director, I would attempt to lead this body. I have never claimed to have all the wisdom on all the issues.

"Disagreement on some issues," he added, "does not preclude us from being sensitive and open."

Throughout the question-and-answer session, Baker was (Continued on page 5)



Larry Baker

Touch the world with a telephone

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A new toll-free number can help Southern Baptists reach out and touch the world. It's 1-800-ALL-SEEK (1-800-255-7335).

In December, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees urged Southern Baptist churches to begin "concerts of prayer" for world evangelization Feb. 1. The toll-free number will provide the latest prayer concerns from across the world.

The PrayerLine number can be dialed from every state except Virginia, Hawaii, and Alaska. For Baptists in those states, a regular toll call will be needed, 1-804-355-6581.

Both numbers, to be activated Jan. 26, can be used 24 hours a day. Foreign Mission Board trustees have called for

1-800-ALL-SEEK

concerts of prayer the first Sunday of every month in church worship services, Sunday School classes and Church Training programs.

Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust efforts to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 "will never be accomplished without massive prayer," said Minette Drumwright, the board's special assistant for intercessory prayer.

Missions may be at "an historic moment," Drumwright said, as Christian leaders are busy sharpening strategies for reaching the world with the gospel. But the most magnificent strategies are powerless without prayer.

In fact, the ultimate strategy is prayer.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

Honduran teen has help from Mississippi Baptists

A Honduran teenager is getting much needed medical treatment at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson as a result of a conversation between Leland Hogan and representatives of the Honduran welfare agency.

Hogan's church, Carterville Baptist in Petal, has sent members and medical personnel to Honduras since 1979 to work with the late Charlie Herrington, whose widow continues an independent ministry there. Herrington's ministry is called the Honduras Baptist Medical Dental Mission.

During the church's work visit there last July, Hogan met with representatives of the Junta Nacional de Bienestar Social. "They asked if there was a time when someone needed medical treatment if they might refer that person to me," said Hogan, who heard from Honduran physician Mercedes de Mendoza the day before Thanksgiving.

That doctor sent medical documents, X-rays, and a request for help for a 17 year old boy from San

Pedro Sula named William Cader. He was suffering from severe scoliosis, which results in curvature of the spine. In his case, the condition was aggravated by the fact he had had polio as a child which went virtually untreated.

Hogan contacted doctors in Hattiesburg who referred him to physicians who could perform the surgery. Pat Barrett agreed to perform the surgery, but needed specialists in pulmonary and internal medicine. So, Barry Whites and Bill Causey volunteered to participate in the surgery.

The work was to be done Tuesday at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, which is, as are the physicians, donating its services — including anesthesiology and radiology.

The Honduran welfare agency secured a travel agency to give the travel expenses and the government provided a nurse to travel with the boy. Bill Ferrell, pastor of the Spanish congregation at Broadmoor Church in Jackson, agreed to help with translation.

State legislators file bills to interest Baptists

The 1987 legislative session is under way. Some bills would be of interest to Mississippi Baptists. The following bills had been filed as of Jan. 16. Legislators may be written at P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205 or called at 948-7321.

ALCOHOL: (HB) 17 would prohibit sales of alcoholic beverages by package stores on certain holidays; (HB) 303 would authorize blackjack gambling in certain permitted alcoholic beverage premises; (HB) 305 would allow package liquor stores to sell beer, mixers, and party goods; (HB) 314 and (SB) 2048 would repeal the ban on advertising liquor; (HB) 347 would suspend the driver's license of a minor convicted of DUI until 18th birthday; (HB) 392 would mandate that certain personnel who inform parents of child's unlawful use of alcohol or drugs be immune from liability; (HB) 466 would authorize justice court and municipal court to reduce certain driver's license suspensions under the implied consent law; (HB) 472 would authorize special resort area alcoholic beverage permits; (SB) 2085 would require every police officer, DA, and ABC officer to enforce beer law; (SB) 2103 would define the crime of homicide while operating a vehicle while intoxicated or impaired by other substance.

CHILDREN: (HB) 111 would increase minimum age for drivers from 15 to 16; (HB) 360 and (SB) 2058 would provide for criminal record and employment history checks on employees of child care centers, homes; (SB) 2035 would provide for registration of child care facilities with State Department of Health and authorize annual inspections of facilities and criminal penalties for violations. (SB) 472 would allow termination of a deserting non-custodial parent's rights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: (HB) 170 would prohibit sale of deadly weapon to a convicted felon; (HB) 196 and (SB) 2379 would require a county to pay for the initial medical examination of a rape victim; (HB) 222, (HB) 223, (HB) 226, and (HB) 227 all would provide compensation for victims of crime; (HB) 435 would provide that an arrest without warrant is lawful where there is probable cause of act of domestic violence; (HB) 504 would provide that murder in the commission of the crime of child molestation shall be capital murder; (SB) 2127 would mandate that certain crimes against the aged or disabled not be eligible for parole.

EDUCATION: (HCR) 9 would amend the constitution to require free public school for all children ages 5 through 18; (HB) 63, (HB) 145, (HB) 146, (HB) 267, (SB) 2119, (SB) 2180, (SB) 2306 all would extend the compulsory school age to 16, (HB) 114 would prohibit hazing of students by university organizations; (SB) 2440 would allow the teaching of creationism in public schools.

ELECTIONS: (SB) 2188 would provide for contesting the disqualifica-

tion of signatures on petitions filed by county electors requesting a referendum vote.

FAMILY: (HB) 158 would provide that a married person may seek relief under protection from domestic abuse law regardless of pending divorce suit; (HB) 159 and (SB) 2453 would allow divorces on the grounds of irreconcilable differences.

GAMBLING: (HB) 120 and (HB) 404 would allow for creation of county racing commission and pari-mutuel wagering in certain counties upon election; (HB) 121 would provide for distribution of monies from pari-mutuel horse track betting; (HB) 303 would authorize blackjack gambling in certain permitted alcoholic beverage premises; (HB) 304 would create a state racing commission and legalize pari-mutuel betting and legalize in counties by referendum; (HB) 350 would prohibit use of gambling devices; (HB) 405 would authorize advertising of alcoholic beverages and permit emergency purchases for retailers by on-premise retailers; (SCR) 502 would amend the constitution to authorize a state lottery; (SB) 2282 and (SB) 2283 would permit pari-mutuel wagering on jai alai in counties where approved by referendum.

HEALTH: (HB) 103 would provide that the State Board of Health not charge for immunizations; (HB) 343 would require that marriage license applicants have a blood test for AIDS; (HB) 443 would remove repealer on program for testing newborns for PKU; (SB) 2433 would provide that the storage and distribution of human tissue, organs, or bones for transplanting or transferring purposes is the rendering of a service and not a sale.

MEDIA: (HB) 48, (HB) 445, and (SB) 2116 would provide that the Mississippi Public Service Commission regulate cable television systems (HB) 59 would provide that supervisors of any county may adopt ordinances regulating community television systems outside city; (SB) 2243 would prohibit "blind bidding" for motion picture exhibition rights.

OBSCENITY: (HB) 135 would provide that obscene or pornographic photographing or filming of children for any purpose shall be considered sexual abuse under the Youth Court law; (SB) 2322 would revise the definition of "prurient interest" and "patently offensive" under obscenity law.

RESTRICTED SALES: (HB) 279 would prohibit lease requiring

businesses with fewer than ten employees to open on Sunday.

SAFETY: (HB) 67, (HB) 154, (HB) 273, (HB) 390, (HB) 461, (HB) 494, and (SB) 2158 would provide for compulsory motor vehicle liability insurance; (HB) 178, (HB) 245, and (SB) 2051 would require use of seat belt restraint devices by motor vehicle operators and passengers; (SB) 2061 would require headlights on motor vehicles be used during inclement weather; (SB) 2072 require adult transporting infant child use passenger restraint; (SB) 2241 would require hotels to have fire warning devices for the hearing impaired.

STATE GOVERNMENT: (HCR) 26, (HCR) 30, (SCR) 501 would amend the constitution to provide for initiative and referendum; (HCR) 9 would amend the constitution to require free public schools for all children ages 5 through 18; (SB) 2229 would provide that a referendum on a constitutional convention be held in November, 1987, and if adopted, would provide for a convention of 122 delegates to convene July 29, 1988; would require submitting a new constitution to the people; (SCR) 502 would amend the constitution to authorize a state lottery; (SCR) 535 would amend the constitution to abolish the office of lieutenant governor.

OTHER: (HB) 167 would provide for regulation of charitable organizations which solicit funds; (HB) 420 would establish Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; (SB) 2081 would restore state income tax exemptions to pre-1979 level; (SB) 2192 would regulate prize and gift promotional offers for time-share projects; (SB) 2405 would exempt from sales tax food stamp purchases and Girl Scout cookies.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Christian Action Commission, Box 530, Jackson, 39205 or by calling (601) 968-3800. The accompanying information was supplied by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Annuity Board sets contributors' rates

DALLAS — Annuity Board retirement-plan members with contributions in the Fixed Fund can expect to earn no less than 9.5 percent in 1987, according to board President Darold H. Morgan.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Jan. 25	Baptist Men's Day (BRO Emphasis)
Jan. 29	District Keyboard Festival; 6:30 p.m.; FBC, McComb/FBC, Laurel/FBC, Vicksburg/Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (CM)
Jan. 30	District Keyboard Festival; 6:30 p.m.; FBC, Grenada/Temple BC, Hattiesburg/Fairview BC, Columbus (CM)
Jan. 30-31	Single Adult Retreat; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 30th-3 p.m., 31st. (CT)
Jan. 31	District Keyboard Festival; 9:30 a.m.; FBC, Horn Lake/FBC, Jackson/Midway BC, Meridian/Second BC, Greenville (CM)

Making church growth intentional is meet aim

Truman Brown, church administration consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will be



Brown

the leader of a long range planning conference at the Baptist Building in Jackson, Feb. 9-11.

Long range planning, according to Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, "is a growth process designed to prepare a church to be intentional, with God's help, to make things happen in church growth and development."

Included in Brown's lectures will be the topics: "Identifying future church and community growth opportunities," and "developing a five-year strategy for bold growth." Thompson, whose department is sponsoring the meeting, will discuss "A rediscovery of mission," and "How to present the long-range plan to the church."

Cost of the conference, which in-

cludes planning resource materials, is \$45 for the first person from each church. Additional persons from a church may attend for \$20. To register, write Thompson at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 968-3800.

The program begins at noon, Feb. 9 and concludes at noon, Feb. 11.

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BR2

Larry Baker is elected to moral concerns group

(Continued from page 3)

answer session, trustees repeatedly returned to the abortion issue in a discussion mirroring the commission's annual meeting last September. In that meeting, trustees by a one-vote margin rejected a recommendation which would have instructed the staff to produce materials allowing for the possibility of abortion only when the physical life of the mother is endangered.

Baker told trustees "the widespread practice of abortion in this society has become a national tragedy and a national disgrace." When questioned about permissible exceptions to moral and legal prohibitions against abortion, he stressed that "exceptions are just that. They are rare in occurrence and few in number. But I think there are exceptional occasions when, while abortion may not be justified, it may be excused. Because we live in a broken and sinful world, . . . there may be occasions when the exception needs at least to be an option."

Baker spelled out four cases where he believes abortion "may be allowed as an exception" — threat to the life of the mother, rape, incest and "perhaps in the case where traumatic and severe deformity to the fetus is involved."

Rudolph Yakym, a layman from South Bend, Ind., pressed Baker about "when an unborn child becomes a person or a human being."

"I don't know," said Baker. "That's why I hold such a strong line with reference to the sanctity of human life. I do know that life is a gift from God, and he has given us the privilege of being co-creators with him and we ought to be good stewards of it."

After a series of questions about his stance on "exceptions," Baker told Gary Crum, a layman from Washington, that "we are faced with the limitations of human language. You want me to put more precision in my answer at that point, and I can't. The exceptions are few and rare in occurrence, and that's what I want to emphasize." Crum and Yakym are co-

founders of Southern Baptists for Life, an anti-abortion group.

Alma Ruth Morgan, a layperson from Bartlesville, Okla., asked Baker to "give me some of the moral courage we've heard about" and "just tell us whether you're for or against" issues such as women in ministry, capital punishment, secular humanism, and the sanctuary movement.

On the role of women, Baker told trustees that "God calls women to serve him in ministry as he calls men to serve him in ministry." Questioned by Crum as to whether he would agree that the Bible specifically prohibits women from serving as pastors, Baker said, "No, I do not agree with that position," and outlined his views on New Testament teaching related to the role of women.

Baker also stated his personal opposition to capital punishment. "I believe capital punishment runs counter to the Christian ethic and the Christian gospel," he said. "I am also aware that Christians of conscience hold a different opinion."

In discussion before the vote, several trustees questioned Baker's ability to lead without consensus on the board, expressed opposition to Baker's views on several issues, and voiced disappointment in the composition of the search committee which brought the recommendation.

"The committee is monolithic," said Alabama pastor Fred Lackey. "I feel that my point of view at least was not represented."

"The diversity on the board is not represented in the committee," added Joe Atchison, an Arkansas director of missions. "It immediately makes us suspicious. It would have helped if you could have added just one or two from our side of the aisle."

Search committee Chairman Charles Wade of Arlington, Texas, noted nine trustees were added to the 31-member commission after the search committee was appointed. "And, frankly, until this year we never had many divided votes even though we've had differing opinions," he said.

Hal Lane, pastor from Eutawville, S.C., said he feared a split vote would bring "extreme division. If a church gives me a 60/40 vote, I would not move."

At the end of the meeting, trustees approved unanimously a recommendation from the commission's executive committee "to pray for and work with" the new executive director.

Baker, a native of Louisiana, has been dean at Midwestern Seminary since 1982. He holds three degrees, including a doctorate in theology, from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has taught Christian ethics at both seminaries and has served as chairman of the Missouri Baptist Christian Life Committee. He also has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. He and his wife, Wanda, have three children.

David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

Rec meet set for Paris Landing Park

A conference is planned at Paris Landing State Park, Tennessee, that will give participants knowledge of mission service opportunities in resort and leisure settings.

A major purpose of the meeting will be to show creative ways the gospel message can be presented to a secular audience.

The National Recreation and Resort Missions Conference will take place Mar. 16-20 at the park which is in the Land Between the Lakes recreation area near the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

The conference will be a combination of creative worship, Bible study, seminars, recreation, demonstration activities of resort ministries, fellowship, and experiential learning. It is co-sponsored by the Home Mission Board's Special Mission Ministries Department and the Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department.

The use of creative arts such as puppetry, clowning, drama, mime, magic, and music will be included.

Participants can include anyone involved in such ministries or campers or volunteers interested in development of these ministries.

The cost is \$150 for hotel room with TV linens, meals, snacks, materials, and conference fee.

The program begins with the evening meal, Mar. 16, and concludes with lunch Mar. 20.

To register (include \$25 conference fee) or for more information, contact Special Mission Ministries Department, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601, phone 404-873-4041. Shuttle buses are available from Memphis and Nashville airports.

Barber, Hanvey, Wesley share SS writing chore

Current Sunday School lesson writers for the first six months of 1987 are all pastors. They are Nathan Barber, who is writing the Life and Work curriculum; Robert Hanvey, who is writing the Uniform lesson material, and Charles Wesley, who is writing the Bible Book Series materials.

Barber, 41, is pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis. He has been there since 1974. Prior to that, he was pastor of Calvary Church in Hattiesburg's Oak Grove Community, 1970-74. From 1967 to 1970, Barber was pastor of West Side Mission of First Church, Picayune. He was youth director of First Church, Wiggins, 1965-67, and was music director of Edna Church, Columbia, 1963-64.

A Meridian native, Barber is a graduate of William Carey College. He earned the master of theology and doctor of ministries degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

Barber and his wife, Patricia, have three children.

He has been involved in associational and state Baptist service and has participated in a number of mission trips including to Michigan, Argentina, and twice to Kenya. Barber was on the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and was on the convention's committee on constitution and bylaws and the resolutions committee.

He also has served as moderator of the Gulf Coast Association and served on various committees in the association. He was vice chairman of the local arrangements committee for the Foreign Mission Board's appointment service on the coast in 1984.

Robert Hanvey, 47, has been pastor of First Church, Hazlehurst, since 1977.

Earlier church jobs include pastor, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, 1974-77; and associate pastor in education and administration, First

Church, McComb, 1972-73.

A native of Fairfield, Ala., Hanvey is a graduate of Jacksonville State College in Alabama, and earned master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary and a doctor of theology degree from Baptist Christian University.

Hanvey and his wife, Mary Kathryn, have one daughter.

He has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and was chairman of the Order of Business Committee for the 1984 Mississippi Baptist Convention. He has held various associational offices, is a state approved worker in Brotherhood and Cooperative Missions, and has participated in evangelism and stewardship mission work in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Charles Wesley is pastor of Morrison Chapel Church in Cleveland, where he has served since 1985. Prior to that he was pastor of Meadville Church, 1981-85; Braxton Church, 1978-81; Linn Church, 1976-78; First Church, Lockport, La., 1974-76; and Blue Lake Church, 1972.

A graduate of Delta State, Wesley earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Wesley, a native of Vicksburg, has served as moderator of Sunflower Association, is approved worker for the Sunday School and Church Administration departments of the MBCB, and has served on missions committees in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Wesley and his wife, Judy, have two children.

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Baptist Men's Day

(Continued from page 2)

questions.

Perhaps the analogy is not completely fitted; but when Jesus summoned Lazarus from the grave, he said to those about him, "Loose him, and let him go." The same directions might serve us well today. There could well be many laymen who, though not dead physically, are at least asleep spiritually. They need to be loosed and given freedom to go to work in the vineyard. It is very likely that we would observe some amazing feats of witnessing and work if laymen were turned loose and given the opportunity to get going.

If the Bible is mistaken in telling us from whence we came, how can we trust it to tell us where we are going?

Small church leaders invited to training

The annual Small Church Leadership Training Conference for North Mississippi will take place Feb. 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., at Blue Mountain College.

This conference is especially designed for churches with Sunday School enrollments of 150 or fewer.

Besides 23 separate sessions for the various leader roles in church, principal speaker will be Guy Henderson who is evangelism director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Conferences will be offered for the following leaders: pastors; deacon chairmen; Sunday School directors, and Sunday School workers with

adults, youths, children, and preschoolers; WMU directors, Baptist Women leaders; leaders of Acteens, G.A.s, and Mission Friends; Baptist Men and R.A. leaders; volunteer music directors; church pianists, preschool/children music workers; Church Training directors and Church Training leaders of adults, youths, children, and preschoolers.

Lunch will be provided for those who register through their associational office by Feb. 9. The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's program director, Chester Vaughn.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Share your skills!

A double row of trees forms a curving canopy over the approach to Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. One morning, I met W. Mark Moore, the hospital's administrator of Clinical Support Services, at the main entrance, for a promised tour. (I first knew Mark long ago when he was minister of education at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson. Later, he was an editor of children's curriculum materials at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville when I was writing Sunday School lessons for Bible Searchers.

The attractive old buildings, the lakes, the wide-spreading trees, reminded me of a university campus.

As we discussed the need for tutors and other helpers in the Patient Education Program, Mark commented that volunteers with all kinds of skills could find a way to share them at this hospital. "I can see, for instance, Young Adult departments in Sunday School or Church Training getting involved," he said — "young women coming out each week to help the women patients select clothing — in colors and styles becoming to them, polishing and caring for their nails, showing the patients new hair styles and other practical ideas for living. And, the same could be done for the men — giving guidance in clothing selections, hints for better grooming, or giving helps in special skill areas." These kinds of visits could help build patients' self-esteem, as well as provide helpful experiences of learning and living.

He showed me the women's and men's clothing centers and introduced me to Carrie Ford and Dorothy Earwood, who unpack and arrange donated clothing in a most attractive fashion so that patients can come in to "shop and select." Also, I saw the beauty shop, where 12 operators usually prepare the hair of about 100 women patients a day. I could imagine volunteers providing their fashion and grooming-hints workshops in these clothing centers, which are near the offices of the staff and director of the Department of Information, Wynona Winfield.

Where patients may once have sat idle, now they can spend time in occupational therapy, horticultural therapy, patient library, music therapy or others. Or they can play golf, or fish. Senior adults and other patients often go bus riding or bowling or take part in some other recreation or in crafts. Volunteers could help in any of these experiences by pro-

viding their own ideas and assistance. Women from Briarhill, Bethel, and Crossgates churches in Rankin County sponsor quiltings once each week in the Female Receiving Building. Different groups from local communities give birthday parties each month in a large room adjoining the library, which is a beautiful high-ceilinged room with tall windows, mahogany beams, and paintings of birds.

"Business owners and managers could provide work projects for some of our patients," Mark suggested — such as envelopes to stuff or other small factory-type jobs that could be done here at the hospital. Many patients have skills for working and making their own money, if they only had such opportunities."

"Speech and hearing therapists are needed," he said, "as well as interpreters for the deaf and tapes for the blind."

Sometimes, language interpreters can also come in handy. For there was the heart wrenching case of the Greek sailor in New Orleans, who needed special help and was later brought to Mississippi State Hospital. As the sailor spoke only Greek, attendants thought his talk was only gibberish. After he had spent some time in isolation, someone realized that he was speaking Greek. A local Greek-speaking priest was requested to visit and speak with the sailor. Upon regular visits from the priest and other members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jackson, the patient now participates in communion, music, food, and conversation with his Greek friends.

Besides these kinds of possibilities, volunteers with skills of construction work could find plaster work to do or sidewalks to pour. Other kinds of jobs could be found such as painting, carpentry work, or a dozen or so jobs on the new campground which was provided by members of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs. In a secluded corner of the hospital, acreage is coming to life for a beach on a lake, a pavilion, two cabins, and nature trails. Some groups could build a fishing pier, additional sidewalks, more cabins, and the like. It is difficult to transport to a state park all the necessities for patients with special diets, medicines, and other needs. Here is, a quiet retreat; and, doctors, medical help and other resources are nearby.

If all these ministry and mission possibilities aren't enough to whet the

appetite of Brotherhoods, WMUs, Sunday School, and other church groups seeking involvement projects, then maybe they'd like to build some tall, wooden gardening boxes for the senior adult patients who enjoy working in the soil, but can't bend over to tend the growing plants and flowers.

Jerry Ball, a deacon and Children's Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church, Jackson, is co-ordinator of Volunteer Services at MSH. Anyone wishing to give time and labor and love and friendship to men and women who are lovable and appreciative may contact Mr. Ball.

Mississippi State Hospital was planned for location in the community of Whitfield, since 1926, when it was so named in honor of Governor Henry L. Whitfield. Before then, it was located where the University Medical Center now is in Jackson. From 1926 until 1935, the new buildings for the present Mississippi State Hospital were under construction at a cost of \$5,000,000. Patients were received at the new site on March 4, 1935. Since this date, other institutions and industries have located in the Whitfield community.

James C. Stubbs, an active member and an Adult Sunday School Department director at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, is director of Mississippi State Hospital. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Stubbs once commented "That he dreamed that one day all of the patients could go home well and that the hospital would no longer be needed." But, as long as needs exist for quality mental-health care, there will also be needs for concerned Mississippians to participate in our on-going opportunities for worthwhile programs and services.

In the meantime, Mississippi Baptists (and others) who want to volunteer time, interest, and resources can share their Christianity among these need-to-be-cared-for individuals — not by verbal witnessing, but by love in action, and by expressing attitudes of concern for these patients.

I feel sure that the patients have seen Christ in the person and actions of Mark Moore, for I have known few individuals who were more courteous, caring, and sensitive to the needs and welfare of his fellow human beings. I have never forgotten the time he as an editor welcomed new writers to Nashville with the gift of a single red rose sent to our hotel rooms. And recently I saw the loving individual attention he gave each patient we met.

Hardy Church awards scholarship to Patrick Ivy

The ministerial scholarship committee of Hardy Church, Grenada, on behalf of the membership, has awarded a \$350 scholarship to Patrick R. Ivy of Myrtle.

These scholarships are given each year to ministerial students who are approved by the membership. Ap-

plications are made available to the state Baptist colleges — Mississippi College, Clarke College, William Carey College and Blue Mountain College — in August on each year. Applications must be returned to Hardy Church no later than Nov. 15. Awards are made available on Jan. 1 each

year and can be applied to semester tuition credit chosen by the recipient.

Ivy, 20, is a junior at Blue Mountain College. His mother is Mrs. Philip R. Ivy of Myrtle. His pastor is Matt Buckles, Lowery Memorial Church, Blue Mountain.

No lesser goal!

By Jerry Merriman

Matthew 5:38-48, focus on 48

One time an eight-year-old boy and I were discussing his fossil collection. While explaining to me the different facets of each item, he picked up one particular item and remarked, "This one is perfect." Though I did not voice the question which arose in my mind, I found the question nevertheless lingering, "Is it really perfect?"

Ofttimes we have heard some person described as, "a perfectionist," and this description is accurate; for, though this person is not perfect, he strives constantly to attain perfection in his work.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if people around about us could say of you and me, "He's a perfectionist in Christian living" — meaning of course, that, though you and I shall never attain that high and laudable goal, we do at least strive for it.

Too many times, we give up too easily in trying to achieve the goals set forth in Matthew 5. Because we are human and fallible, we dismiss all too lightly the 48th verse with the expression, "Oh well, what's the use, I'm only human."

Actually, what we should say and practice with Paul is, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded" (Philippians 3:14, 15-1).

How about you? Have you been setting the goal for your Christian living too low? If so, read the challenge (verse 48) again and take seriously your responsibility in this important matter.

Jerry Merriman is director, Department of Student Work, MBCB.



Merriman

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CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:00	Plant Groom David Wade	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Lone Ranger Cartoon Coco Kid
6:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup Cope	Villa Alegre Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Carrasco-Lencas Cope	Infirmary Factory Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunday School Lesson Danny and Goliath
8:00	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Problems Great Churches	Word of Life In Concert	Human Dimension Great Churches	At Home With the Bible Invitation to Life	Sunshine Factory Guggenmoort Hotel
9:00	In Touch	Our Pasa	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Slippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
10:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Coco Kid Our World
11:00	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	In Concert
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Country Crossroads
1:00	Christopher Closeup The Sunday Selections	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Jim Houston Outdoors Super Handyman
2:00		Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Davey and Goliath Sunshine Factory
4:00	Joy of Music Gloria	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Guggenmoort Hotel Country Crossroads
5:00	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Jim Houston Outdoors
6:00	This is the Life	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Davey and Goliath Life Today	Lone Ranger Cartoon Life Today	Slippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
7:00	Changed Lives	Problems	Word of Life	Music is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Coco Kid
8:00	One in the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
9:00	Baptist Hour Evening Worship	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
10:00	Christopher Closeup Sunday Selection	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson This is the Life
11:00		Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Our Pasa	Christopher Closeup Westwood Hospital
12:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World
1:00	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Problems	Word of Life In Concert	Music is	First Things First	Prime Timers	In Concert
2:00	This is the Life	Great Churches	Great Churches	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	Super Handyman
3:00	Methodist Hour	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Plant Groom David Wade
4:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
5:00	Christopher Closeup Super Handyman						Sunday School Lesson Slippy the Kangaroo

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Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Smoke-free waiting

Editor:

Recently my father-in-law spent several days in the Coronary Unit (CCU) at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC). Our family was instructed to wait in the ICU/CCU waiting room to receive progress reports and telephone calls, which we did. In this large room two areas have been designated Smoking Areas. However, with smokers puffing away around the clock, the entire room looks like a morning fog. Several non-smokers were complaining, but what could they do?

Some people who have the habit pay little attention to signs. Since I spent nine days last year at MBMC for a respiratory problem I have been sensitive to cigarette smoke ever since. When I complained, someone suggested that I see the administrator, Mr. Paul Pryor. The receptionist said she gave him my message; and his reply was that they had tried to resolve the problem, which I took to mean that the situation would remain the same.

Now, there is something very contradictory about a hospital bearing the name Baptist treating people on one side of a door for heart disease, which is sometimes and partly caused by cigarette smoking; and on the other side non-smokers are subjected to cigarette smoke not of their choosing. One lady who has been keeping a vigil for days from Seattle, Washington stated that the Swedish Hospital there will not permit smoking on hospital grounds. I was told at the administrator's office that I was the first to ever register a complaint. How long will non-smokers in that kind of situation suffer in silence?

My family and I insist on medical care at MBMC every time we need hospitalization because WE believe that we get the very best in medical care. We also recommend the facility to others. The staff and personnel are wonderful. Please, let us Mississippi Baptists do everything we can to continue the high standards in ministering through MBMC.

L. J. Brewer, pastor
Meadowview Church
Starkville



Guess who got all the men's hats? The girls, of course.



Each child walked away with an entire outfit — if he or she could find something in his or her size.



These boys show off their new boots. The children took 147 pairs of boots from the Monticello Shoe Store, with a retail value of \$10,170.40.

Shoes

Shoes Shoes

Story and photos by Tim Nicholas

When James Boone, a Monticello businessman decided to get out of business, he sold his motel, but decided to give away his shoe store.

He phoned Ray Poole, his banker and a member of Monticello Baptist Church, saying he wanted the church to have it including a full inventory of shoes and clothing. The church gladly took the store, and the pastor, James Fancher, told members he'd like to see the Baptist Children's Village get the clothing inside.

So the church invited the Village for a shopping trip Jan. 10 and when the children finished, they'd carted off a retail value \$32,546.64 in boots, shoes, and assorted clothing. Boone and the church also gave the Village a stock of towels, mattress covers, and bath cloths.

The church voted to allow the Village to have the entire inventory, not just one trip's worth, which total-

ed the gift at \$157,027.85.

Monticello Church, which is building a new \$1.5 million facility, will decide later what to do with the

store building. But for now, the church and Boone have almost completely Westernized the Baptist Children's Village.



Paul Nunnery, Baptist Children's Village director; James Fancher, pastor of Monticello Church; and James Boone, donor of the contents of his shoe store to the Village, chat at the children shop.



Boots bit the dust as Baptist Children's Village residents from all the campuses visited Monticello Saturday a week ago for a shopping spree.

Thursday, January 22, 1987

Names in the news

Stephen Purcil DeOrnellas of Foxworth received the master of divinity/R.E. degrees from Southeastern Seminary during commencement exercises on Dec. 13, 1986. DeOrnellas is now minister of music at First Church of South Hill, Virginia.

CLINTON — James Glass, tenor, and Patricia Walston, pianist, both members of the Mississippi College music faculty, will present in English the song cycle *A Winter's Journey*, by Franz Schubert, Feb. 3, at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Hall on campus. The public is invited and no admission will be charged.

James M. Towery, pastor of Fredonia Church, Union County, has been chosen by The Official Register of Outstanding Americans to appear in a Special Edition of Southern Baptists Leaders 1985-1986.

Tom Leach, formerly Baptist Student Union director at Northwest Mississippi Junior College, is now



with the Shepherd's Staff Counseling center and has opened offices in Greenwood and Greenville. Leach has a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary and has completed a

residency in clinical pastoral education at the University Medical Center and a residency in pastoral counseling at the East Mississippi State Hospital. In Greenwood, office space for the Shepherd's Staff is furnished by the First Baptist Church and in Greenville by the Greenfield Baptist Church, but the Greenville center will soon move to its own building.

Ricky White, a graduate of William Carey College, and former pastor in Mississippi, enters his fifth year in full time evangelism.



White is now serving as staff evangelist at West Pensacola Church in Pensacola, Fla. David Shafner is pastor.

White is available for revivals, Bible studies, and conferences. He can be reached at Box 36493, Pensacola, FL 32506; or by calling (904) 453-8592 (home) or (904) 455-6077 (church).

Senior Adult Corner

Twenty-three senior adults of Springfield Church, Morton, met in the home of Floyd and Rose Coil, Dec. 18, for a covered dish lunch. Under the Christmas tree was a present for everyone provided by the senior adult leader, Mrs. Hamilton Pierce



Mr. and Mrs. Sharber Smith, pictured with Maurice Flowers, director of missions, Jones County, provided the program for the ministers and wives Christmas banquet, Dec. 8, at Highland Church, Laurel.

Smith serves as pastor of Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg. Mrs. Smith is a ventriloquist. They have served in various ministries including "Christ For The World Crusade," with E. J. Daniels.

They may be reached at Rt. 3, Box 345-A, Heidelberg, MS, or phone 787-4614.



East Moss Point Church, Moss Point, gave a reception, Oct. 26, in honor of Mrs. B. J. (Vandaline) Carpenter on her retirement as church secretary.

Mrs. Carpenter is a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother.

She has been a member of East Moss Point Church for 42 years, and has taught a Sunday School class for most of this time.

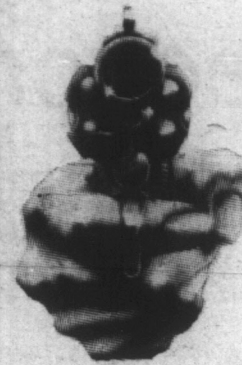
Warren Langworthy is interim pastor.

Pictured are Mrs. Carpenter, center, her son, Larry Carpenter, on the left, and her daughter, Barbara McArthur on the right.



Mars Hill Church, Leake Association, recognized its members with perfect attendance in Sunday School for 1986.

Pictured, left to right, are Curt Manning, 13 years; Joe Pat Mooney, 13 years; Mrs. Myrtle Mooney, 4 years; (mother of Joe Pat), and Lamar Jolly, pastor, 2 years.



Intensive care

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Sin and chemical dependency

In your way of thinking, what has become of sin in the minds of chemically dependent people; and how do you relate sin to chemical dependency?

First of all, sin is sin, and as the New Testament states, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23). I have counseled with several thousand chemically dependent people and find that almost all of them carry a burden of guilt but may not recognize the sin. They feel guilty about not being able to control their drinking and drink more to make the pain go away. For too long, we have been concerned about whether alcoholism or drug addiction is a sin or a disease. If it is a sin, it is the responsibility of the Christian

to love that person and minister to him. If it is a disease, again it is our opportunity in the name of Christ to offer Christian love and understanding. However, to accept chemical dependency as a disease does not remove moral responsibility from the individual.

Let me emphasize that as all people need the grace of God, so the chemically dependent person needs the grace of God, but no more so than anyone else.

Editor's Note: The question above was presented to Luther Litchfield, who has been a chaplain at the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center since 1976, by Joe Stovall, also a chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

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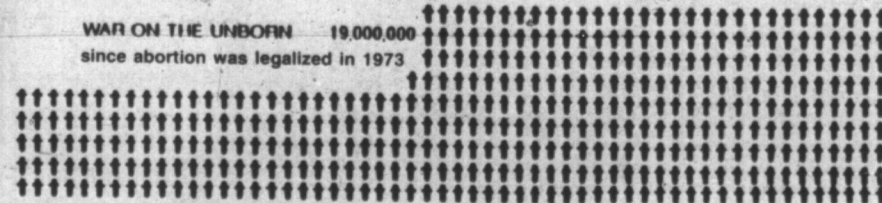
GRIM STATISTICS

AMERICAN WAR CASUALTIES

Each cross mark represents 50,000 people killed. The war casualties represent all American combat-related deaths.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR	25,324	1
CIVIL WAR	498,332	↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑
WORLD WAR I	116,708	↑↑↑
WORLD WAR II	407,316	↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑
KOREAN WAR	54,246	↑
VIETNAM WAR	58,655	↑↑

WAR ON THE UNBORN 19,000,000
since abortion was legalized in 1973



Mississippi Baptists for Life

(Paid advertisement)



Day Star Church, Florence, dedicated its church debt-free recently. This new church in Rankin County was constituted in December, 1980. The ten-year debt was retired in five years. Membership of the church is 240. Pictured with pastor Dale Holloway are the three trustees: Bill Heaney, Paul Rigby, and B. F. Duncan.



Mike White and Sherri Patterson recently received annual awards from Midway Church, Jackson.

White, son of Bill and Linda White of Clinton, received the Jeff King Christian-in-Action award. During the past year he invited seven of his friends to Midway Church, and later they made professions of faith and were baptized.

Patterson received the Randy Moore Sportsmanship award. She has been active in volleyball and basketball. Patterson, married to Clint Patterson and employed at Allstate, teaches elementary Sunday School and sings in the choir.

Pictured, left to right, are Becky Sinclair, director of activities and youth; White; Patterson; and Benton Preston, pastor.



Holly Grove Church, Braxton, dedicated its new debt-free pastorium at a special service, Nov. 30. Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was guest speaker and Glen Schilling, director of missions, Simpson County, closed the service with a prayer of dedication. Others on program were J. A. McCain, former pastor, invocation; and special music by Ella Rowe Hardwick, Becky Rowe Patrick, and Barbara Rowe Lang, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rowe. Also, the Holly Grove Ensemble sang an arrangement of "How Great Thou Art," accompanied by Peggy Allen, organist, and Billie Rowe, pianist.

Pictured, left to right, are Gerald Bridges, Johnny Berry, Robert Taylor, (presenting keys), building committee; Peggy Allen; Dennis Allen, pastor; McCain; Juanita Schilling; Schilling; and Kelly.

McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, will host the Walk Thru The Bible New Testament Seminar on Jan. 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. John Hoover, who led an Old Testament seminar at the church, will again be the leader.

For registration information please call McLaurin Heights Church at 939-3379. There will be no nursery.

Cruse, a contemporary Christian band, will perform at Woodland Hills Church in Jackson, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, however, a love offering will be collected after the concert.

Bill L. Fuller is pastor.

White joins staff at Clarke College

Kevin White of Hickory, joined the administrative staff of Clarke College on Jan. 1, as director of admissions.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy White of Hickory. He is a graduate of Newton County Academy. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned a master of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Geography.

Before coming to join the Clarke staff, White was associated with Central Mississippi Planning and Development District in Jackson.

Bold missionary dies in Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas — Mary Demarest, 98, who had served 40 years as a Southern Baptist missionary to China and Taiwan, died in a nursing home here Jan. 13.

The bulk of her career was spent in China, where she went in 1919 to teach at Julia McKenzie Memorial High School in Kiangtu, after her appointment by the Foreign Mission Board. Serving as principal of the school at times, she also did rural evangelistic work in the area.

The Japanese interned her briefly during World War II. After the war, she taught in a Bible school in Kiangtu until Communists occupied China. In 1951, she transferred to Taiwan where she did evangelistic work in Shichiku until retirement in 1959.

She helped start two churches and two chapels in Shichiku. Many young men became interested in the churches through the English Bible classes and fellowship group she and other missionaries organized.

She taught Sunday school, played the organ and chaperoned female students during activities. Colleagues said she witnessed for Christ in China and Taiwan at every opportunity — in shops, on the street and in community gatherings.

During times of war and danger and during the presence of Japanese and Communists, she was bold. When school could not open during Japanese occupation, she opened it as a Chinese refugee camp and was camp supervisor. Daily Bible classes in the camp were open to all.

Thailand celebrates New Year three times every year

Part I of III

By Maxine Stewart

Thailand is one of the few countries to celebrate New Year's Day three times each year. January 1, the traditional New Year, is celebrated throughout the country. Then Chinese New Year is in February; Thai New Year is April 13.

Early in the morning of Jan. 1, 500 invited Buddhist monks assemble in Sanam Luang Park in Bangkok to receive offerings of food and gifts from the appreciative public. Many of the ladies are dressed in beautiful gold brocade PHA SIN (long Thai skirt) with a matching blouse or embroidered silk blouse with fine pieces of glittering Thai jewelry. In present day, men usually wear western style clothes, but in earlier days many of them could be seen wearing the old style CHONG KRABEN (knee length pant-type garments) and round necked, short sleeved shirts with a PHA KHAMA (loin or bathing cloth) tied around their waists or hung from their necks.

The celebration includes many kinds of entertainment and fun appropriate for the occasion. Many festive parties are held in the cities. Many Thai people 'move' into hotels

of their choice during the holidays. Some do this in order to be nearby where their parties are to be held so they can avoid the heavy Bangkok traffic.

In addition to these there are variety shows such as LAKHON (dance-drama), LIKEH (folk play), KHON (masked play), NGIEW (Chinese drama), KRABEE KRABONG (club and sword fighting), and others. Groups with "long drum" dancers roam from place to place in the rural areas, or even in the suburban areas of Bangkok.

This is the time most of the Thai people present gifts to family and friends. They have also adopted the western tradition of sending New Year's greeting cards or "SO KHO SO" ("Sending Happiness") wishing and blessing each other a Happy New Year. Many of these are hand delivered. The people in Bangkok usually take some cakes as well as glazed fruits (sweetmeat) to respected adults and relatives and toys to the children.

(Continued next week)

Maxine Stewart is a missionary to Thailand.

Staff Changes

Central Church, Brookhaven has called W. Mack Amis, Jr. of Pascagoula as pastor. A native of

Forest, Amis is a graduate of the University of South Alabama — Mobile, and Southwestern Seminary and is currently enrolled in the doctor of ministry program at New Orleans Seminary. He was formerly pastor of Magee's Creek Church, Walthall County, and has served in full-time evangelism.

Amis is married to the former Diana Lynn Yeager, and they are the parents of two children — Kelly, six, and Kendal, three.

Glenn Kelly has resigned as pastor of Locust Street Church, McComb, to become pastor of Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall. Kelly, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, his wife, Joyce, and their two children, Dawn and Chris, moved to Oak Grove Church in December.

Bobby C. Waggoner has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Marion Association, Columbia, and accepted the pastorate of Liberty Church of Flowood, Rankin Association, beginning January 18. He is married to the former Branda Pilgrim of Philadelphia and they have a daughter, Kim, 23, and two sons, Kile, 19 and Kerry, 16. Waggoner is a native

of Morton. His education includes William Carey College and a master of divinity, New Orleans Seminary. His ordination to the ministry was by Deemer Church, Philadelphia, in 1961. He has also served as pastor at Trinity, Carthage, and Evergreen, Louisville.

Sand Hill Church, Ellisville, has called James Shumate as pastor. He and his wife, Eva, moved from Chapel Hill, Tenn.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Good news for all people: saving grace is a gift

By Robert M. Hanvey
Acts 10:1-11:18

In these verses from Acts we give consideration to Peter's vision about visiting with Cornelius, the centurion, dealing with matters of unclean things and then defending, if you will, his faith with the Christians in Jerusalem. Ofttimes we are prone to criticize or to condemn the actions of another, not knowing and understanding all that the person has done or is doing. It is easy for us to conclude that he or she is incorrect without the full knowledge or the full understanding of their work or their action or their deeds. I believe in part that such was the case with Peter and Cornelius.

In my estimation, Cornelius and Peter needed each other's concern, each other's insight, each other's position in life in order to come to the conclusion that all men everywhere can receive God's gift of grace. Saving grace comes



Hanvey

UNIFORM

by the expressing of faith in Jesus Christ. Saving grace is literally a gift already given by God through Christ Jesus for the salvation of all men.

In the life of Simon Peter as he worked with Cornelius we would understand that Peter, after having gone to Cornelius, offered that free gift of grace to Cornelius and to his household. Immediately, if you will, Simon Peter came to the conclusion that regardless of who the person is, he can come to a saving knowledge, both Jew and Gentile alike.

When Simon Peter went to Jerusalem to defend his faith and to defend his actions, the questions and the statements surrounded what he did out of Jewish tradition or as opposed to Jewish tradition. It was not preferable to have fellowship with one who was not of the Jewish background and tradition.

Moreover, the Jew did not mix with the Gentile. That particular barrier existed between

Jews and Gentiles as it did between the Jews and the Samaritans, but Peter had received a vision to go. He had been compelled of the Lord God to carry the message of Christ to this devout man. He had a vision of God. He had a vision from God to deal with Cornelius and his household.

In his determination of faith and his defense of his faith in Jerusalem, Peter told how he had shared the gospel with the Gentiles and how the Gentiles had responded to God by faith, and how the Holy Spirit had fallen on them. Perhaps best understood for you and for me is that the Holy Spirit filled them and shared with them because of their belief in Christ. Much as it was in the first and second chapters of this great Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit's actions were powerful, filling, and leading. So it was with the lives of the Gentiles to whom Peter had preached and whom he had seen saved.

Peter's critics also recognized the truth that the Gentiles had been saved without becoming Jews. The traditional rite of circumcision or act of circumcision was not necessary for a Gentile to be saved. You recall, too, that Simon Peter defended that particular custom, and

ritual with Christians in Jerusalem. It was not a pleasing task, I am sure, for Simon Peter to be put on the scene or to have to defend his faith as he did. Nonetheless, he was adequate and in his preaching he shared with them that when men heard the Gospel and they repented, that they received eternal life.

It could be in our lives as adults that we have prejudices against someone or some group of persons or some group caught in the circumstances of life. We could have ethnic prejudices or prejudices against people who, because of circumstances, do not live like we do or perhaps are single again in their own life's experience. Many prejudices can come to light and each of us must stand and give an account of, not defend, these. Tradition is not more important than the person. Ritual is not more important than the person.

There is no need for a person to be confused about being saved. It is not out of ritual or ceremony or even the removal of a prejudice that allows one to be saved. It is the saving faith in Christ Jesus. We are encouraging all to trust Jesus as Peter and his friends did.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

Jesus teaches humble service and announces Judas' betrayal

By Charles Wesley
John 13:3-14, 21, 25-27

In this lesson we see the humility of Jesus and his commitment to serve others. The disciple of Christ should have the same attitude and



Wesley

commitment to serve others. Also, in this lesson Jesus announces the betrayal of one who wished to serve his own selfish desires.

I. Jesus washes his disciples' feet (13:3-11). Jesus knew that the time was very short before his death, resurrection, and

ascension. Thus Jesus takes this opportunity to teach another lesson on humility and servanthood. During a supper with his disciples, Jesus washes their feet.

However, Peter protests the action of Jesus. Jesus tells Peter that if he is not allowed to wash

Peter's feet, that Peter can have no relationship with Jesus. Then Peter with false humility tells Jesus to wash not only his feet, but his hands and head as well. But Jesus reminds Peter that he had already taken a bath before coming to supper, so only his dusty feet need washing.

A giant spiritual truth is taught here. We must receive the humble service of Jesus on our behalf if we are to have a relationship with him. This is certainly true of his humble death on the cross.

Next, Jesus changes the thought of physical cleanliness to spiritual cleanliness. He states "but not all of you are clean." Jesus was referring to the one he knew who would betray him. The purpose of Judas to betray Jesus was proof that Judas was not spiritually clean.

II. Jesus explains his act (13:12-14). The disciples are asked by Jesus if they understood the implications of his washing their feet. Jesus wants to be certain his disciples have learned this lesson concerning servanthood. Thus, Jesus tells his disciples that if their teacher and Lord can wash their feet, then they should wash one another's feet. Some have taken this statement of Jesus as establishing the ordinance of footwashing. Rather, Jesus was commanding his followers to take up a life of servanthood as he had done. If the Lord could perform deeds of service, then surely the servants of the Lord should.

III. Jesus announces his betrayal (13:21, 25-27). The solemnity of Jesus' troubled spirit. We will never this side of heaven fully understand the agony Jesus was beginning to experience even before hanging on the cross.

In the announcement of his betrayal, Jesus does not call the name of his betrayer. Could this have been a chance for all of the disciples

to examine their commitment to Jesus, including Judas? Jesus was asked to inform the group as to which one of them would betray him. Jesus replied by telling them that the betrayer "is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." Therefore, Jesus gave the morsel to Judas.

Yet, the other disciples did not understand the actions of Jesus as pointing to Judas. Judas had become a servant of Satan instead of a servant of Jesus. Even though Judas was guilty of betraying Jesus, we should not lose sight of the fact that God was using this in his plan to provide salvation for everyone who will trust Jesus as Savior.

We should use this lesson to examine our willingness to be servants. Furthermore, we should recognize our potential to yield to the temptation of Satan to allow our speech and actions to betray our loyalty to Christ.

Charles Wesley is pastor of Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

Jesus teaches relationship between love, forgiveness

By Nathan L. Barber
Luke 7:37-49

On one occasion Jesus had eaten with taxgatherers (5:29). Now he dines with a Pharisee named Simon. Jesus plainly was no respecter



Barber

of persons. Simon was able to see that even more clearly when an unnamed woman of the city, probably a prostitute, entered the Pharisee's house to approach Jesus.

The woman had come with the specific purpose of anointing Jesus' feet. She knew that the participants at the meal would be reclining at the table, propped up on one elbow with their feet stretched out away from the table. This arrangement would make it possible for her to perform her deed almost before anyone noticed her presence.

Whether she had ever met Jesus or not is of no consequence. It was her attitude and actions which mattered. Undoubtedly this woman was one of the many people whose lives had been changed by the preaching, and teaching, and

LIFE AND WORK

example of Jesus. It was important for her to be able to express her gratitude and love to this Rabbi who had spoken of acceptance and forgiveness as she had never heard before.

Everything went according to her plan until she actually came into his presence. While still standing at his feet, she began to weep out of a deep sense of unworthiness. And now kneeling she wept uncontrollably until she literally wet the feet of Jesus. Unprepared for what she was feeling and doing and with no other resource at hand, the woman spontaneously began wiping Jesus' feet with her own hair. And in the same spontaneous manner, she humbly and respectfully bathed his feet with her kisses. She then completed her mission and anointed Jesus' feet with the costly perfume which she had brought.

By this time the attention of Simon and his guests had been focused on this woman and her acts of love. Simon then betrayed his own suspicion about Jesus. He could not be a prophet,

Simon reasoned within himself, for a man gifted as a prophet would know who and what sort of person this woman was. A prophet would not allow a sinner, such as this prostitute, to touch him. But Jesus demonstrated how very wrong the Pharisee was in his conclusions by discerning and answering his thoughts. He did this by means of a parable which was pointed directly at Simon.

Two men were in debt to a moneylender. When the two men were unable to repay their debt, the moneylender graciously forgave them both. One man owed a sum equal to almost two months' salary for a laborer, and the other man owed a sum greater than the salary for a year and four months. Simon, of course, did not have to possess great insight to recognize which of the two debtors would love the forgiving moneylender the more.

Jesus then gave a stinging comparison of the Pharisee and the prostitute. Everything which Simon should have done for Jesus as a guest and did not do, the woman had done as a pure act of love; she knew that she had been forgiven much. Simon had not become as conscious of his sin as the woman had become of her sin. She had great need and therefore ex-

perienced less forgiveness. His assumption that Jesus would not let this sinful woman touch him revealed his own attitude. God has never excluded a person from his love and forgiveness because of sin. On the contrary, "... God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

In the parable Jesus taught the relationship between forgiveness and love. When an individual receives forgiveness from God, it should lead to definite expressions of love in that person's life. Whether the sins are considered small or great, few or many, God still desires "... to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you, go in peace." This statement by Jesus underscores the fact that the woman's love was the proof of her forgiveness, not the cause of her forgiveness. Love is a natural response of those who recognize the magnitude of God's forgiveness. Thanksgiving to God for forgiveness should be expressed in loving actions.

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Family
Ginger Myers Barnes &
Family
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Skelton
Jamie Ruth Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Young
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Baptist Record

Missionaries find that parents' illnesses force hard choices

By Leland Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A common but serious family problem is causing some Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to return to the United States at least temporarily and to spend emotional energy and personal finances in the process.

The problem is the illness or infirmity brought on by aging that afflicts some parents of missionaries. And because the problem receives little public attention, one source of possible help — U.S. church members — remains largely uninformed. When the parents become incapacitated the missionary faces a wrenching dilemma: How can family duty and Christian calling be balanced? How can he or she respond to two clear teachings of Scripture — duty to honor parents and supremacy of Christian discipleship over family ties?

"Missionaries with aging or ill parents in the States must deal with a whole range of emotions, as well as face some tough decisions that will impact their lives and careers," summed up Joe Bruce, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board associate area director for Middle America. He was among more than 50 missionaries who responded to a questionnaire on this problem.

"They become more acutely aware of the geographical distance as their parents become older," he said. They also face guilt, financial hardships and the problem of "dealing with their own mortality."

In addition to the missionaries' having few or no siblings, the lengthening of average life expectancy increases the possibility parents may face debilitating ailments of age.

The situation, in the words of missionary Delores Hill of Thailand, is "one of the most overwhelming problems missionaries face."

Choices for missionaries facing the difficulty sort out to about three: (1) Stay on the field. Persons able to do this usually have family members in the United States who can handle the situation. A handful of missionaries have stayed at their posts by taking a parent with them to the field for a while. (2) Return to the United States temporarily. A missionary may hastily arrange an early furlough to appraise the need. The next option may be to request a leave of absence, with salary suspended to allow time to choose a course of action. (3) Resign. Seldom an easy decision, resignation may emerge as the option meeting the most needs. For some, early retirement is another option.

Several offered a plea not to judge others for what they decide. Many parents are notorious for masking the truth about their health in letters. A missionary thousands of miles away without an objective report feels at a loss in trying to evaluate conditions. Overseas telephone calls, now common, don't always work smoothly and can be expensive.

This is an area where many suggest church members at home might assist. The missionary craves facts. "If someone would write often telling us exactly how mother is getting along, that would be a great relief," sighed one. Hearing "no news is worse than hearing the bad news," confirmed another.

Church members at home can help in some other practical ways, although a few missionaries cautioned that some parents may be "too proud, independent, and private" to accept aid, and some types of help can come only from family members. Also, not every church may be equipped for such a ministry. Noted one woman of her experience, "People in the church seemed to be frozen, unable to understand practical ways of responding, while wanting to do so."

Missionaries who have been aided by churches express deep gratitude. One told of the church that helped her husband's father: "They bought groceries, harvested his

garden, cut firewood, provided transportation to the doctor, cheered him up." Without this help, "we could not have stayed" on the field.

In some situations, says one, it would help "for a local church to 'adopt' the parent or parents to see to daily needs and then call the family member when major decisions need to be made."

Among other suggestions: involve parents in visiting shut-ins or provide another way for them to serve; tape-record a message from the parent to send the missionary; have a trusted person serve as "secretary" to sort through bills and unsolicited mail; arrange for a "personal care" worker to see that medicine is taken, proper food eaten, clothing kept clean.

One missionary suggested that the FMB sponsor an informal organization of parents. The Japan Baptist Mission already produces a quarterly newsletter for parents of all its missionaries.

One basic rule rings out in whatever way someone at home might try to assist: Follow through. Never offer help if there is no commitment.

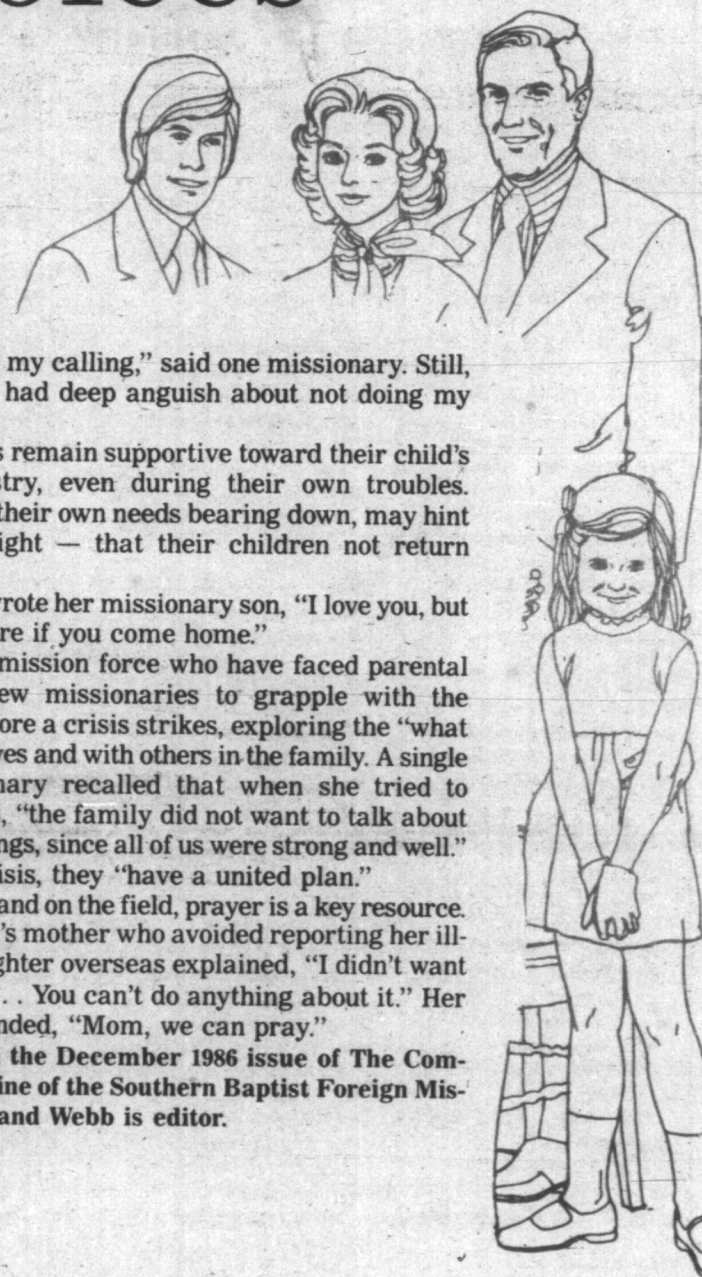
Family relationships for missionaries differ almost endlessly — in number of brothers and sisters, stability of siblings' families, degree of family closeness, sympathy of other family members toward missionary calling.

Sometimes missionaries feel warm support from others in the family. "We thank God for sisters and



brothers whose interest and concern for missions has caused them to go the extra mile in caring for our parents in order that we could remain at our place of service," noted one.

But many missionaries "feel keenly their own responsibility, even when others are willing to assume this load (for ailing parents)," suggested Bob Hardy, associate area director for East Asia. "I was fortunate to have brothers and sisters who lovingly cared for our parents



and understood my calling," said one missionary. Still, "many times I had deep anguish about not doing my part."

Many parents remain supportive toward their child's overseas ministry, even during their own troubles. Others, feeling their own needs bearing down, may hint — or ask outright — that their children not return overseas.

One mother wrote her missionary son, "I love you, but I'd love you more if you come home."

Those in the mission force who have faced parental needs urged new missionaries to grapple with the possibilities before a crisis strikes, exploring the "what ifs" for themselves and with others in the family. A single woman missionary recalled that when she tried to discuss matters, "the family did not want to talk about such morbid things, since all of us were strong and well." Now, after a crisis, they "have a united plan."

Both at home and on the field, prayer is a key resource. One missionary's mother who avoided reporting her illness to her daughter overseas explained, "I didn't want to worry you . . . You can't do anything about it." Her daughter responded, "Mom, we can pray."

Adapted from the December 1986 issue of *The Commission*, magazine of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Leland Webb is editor.

Georgia Baptists to build med center

ATLANTA (BP) — Georgia Baptist Medical Center has received approval to build a \$13.2 million office building in downtown Atlanta.

Approval came from the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee in Atlanta.

The medical center will have doctors' offices, an outpatient diagnostic and surgical center, a women's health center, and senior adult services. It will be financed by a tax-exempt bond issue, amortized over 25 years at 7 percent interest.

The committee also elected William T. (Bill) Neal III as associate editor of the *Christian Index*, the Georgia Baptist state paper, effective Jan. 1. Neal has been assistant to the director of the Georgia Baptist education division for two years.

He was a Baptist campus minister in Columbus, Ga., for 11 years. He was news director at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., 1972-74.

Baptist Record

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